

what was now to be known as St. Mary Queen of Creation.

The 1960's also saw the creation of a new mission for St. Mary Parish. A chapter of St. Vincent de Paul was opened to serve the needs of the poor in New Baltimore and seventh-grader Mary Jane Plague began a music ministry. This legacy of community stewardship grew with the addition of Sister Loretta Demick to the St. Mary Parish in 1974. Sister Demick began what was known as Sister Loretta's Closet, which helped feed the poor, elderly and infirmed of the Parish. Also in 1974, the former convent was turned into a home for women who are developmentally disabled. People with special needs are still being served in this building, and it is known as the Horizons Residential Centers. In the last decade, the St. Mary Parish has expanded outreach programs to help the homeless and those with HIV/AIDS.

Over the years, St. Mary Parish has grown from a few families to thousands of parishioners and along the way has dedicated itself to bettering the lives of everyone in its community. The community of New Baltimore and all of Macomb County have benefitted from many good deeds and continuing works of generosity that the St. Mary Parish has undertaken. I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in wishing St. Mary Parish a happy one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary, and hoping that the next century and a quarter are as fruitful as the last.●

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS FROM CENTURY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I had the privilege to meet with twelve accomplished students from Century Senior High School in Bismarck, ND, who are in town to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . ." competition. This competition focuses on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and these students have worked hard to reach the national finals.

These students are Adrienne Buckman, Nicole Elkin, Jessica Fritz, Nathan Grenz, Gwen Hobert, Chris Holzer, Reed Hushka, Whitney KreingKrairt, Rudie Martinson, Paul Nehring, Grant Neuharth, and Russel Pearson. They are ably led by their teacher, Jeff Aas, who also deserves credit for the success of the class.

I am proud of this class and their dedication to this project. The Constitution is not just a historical document; it is the basis for our entire system of government. The brilliance of the Constitution lies in its flexibility which has allowed it to stand the test of time. The Bill of Rights is a fundamental part of our national culture and has been the basis of freedom principles that have been adopted in other countries around the world.

The knowledge that these students have gained by studying the Constitu-

tion will serve them well for years to come. Congratulations to these outstanding students from my home State.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS H. BLOME

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments today to honor Dennis H. Blome for his outstanding work as United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa.

Before he even set foot in the U.S. Marshal's office, Dennis Blome had already distinguished himself with over two decades of dedicated law enforcement service. During these years, he took on just about every position in the field of law enforcement, and he performed them all with diligence, passion and honor.

Dennis started out as a Deputy in the Linn County Sheriff's Office in 1971. He then took on the positions of Jail Officer, dispatcher and patrolman before becoming First Deputy for Sheriff Walter H. Grant. And he later served as Jail Administrator, Sergeant, Lieutenant and head of Detectives for the Sheriff's Office.

In 1984, Dennis was elected as Sheriff, and he took the lead in helping build a new jail and provide critically needed training for jail personnel throughout Iowa. He was also an enthusiastic member of the legislative Committee of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association and of the National Sheriffs' Association.

Dennis' passion for learning and taking on new challenges led him to continue his education at the FBI National Academy, the National Institute of Corrections and Mount Mercy College where he got his BA degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He also took advantage of special training seminars through the National Sheriffs' Conference and the International Chiefs of Police.

Dennis' extensive job experience and solid education served him well when he was appointed as United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa back in 1994. He focused his boundless energy on a number of projects, most notably, that of strengthening security in our courthouses. Today, thanks to Dennis, our courthouses in Cedar Rapids and Sioux City have interior and exterior camera systems as well as recording systems and multiple monitoring systems.

But even more important than what Dennis accomplished is how he accomplished it. Dennis never considered any job to be "beneath" him. He was always willing to pitch in whether it meant being present in court, transporting prisoners or doing anything else necessary to keep the agency in good running order. His humility and commitment to his work made him a popular leader.

Dennis Blome embodies all of the highest ideals of public service. He's served our state with honor and loyalty for thirty years, and it is my pleasure

to offer my deepest gratitude for his considerable contributions.●

HONORING BILL BRADLEY

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today we celebrate the long career of dedicated public service rendered by Mr. Bill Bradley of Ware, MA. His deep love of policy and politics has inspired me and many others, and I am fortunate to have Bill's friendship and counsel in my life.

This weekend, Bill's friends and colleagues will gather to look back on 25 years of service to two United States Senators, a Congressman, the US Department of Agriculture and the people of Massachusetts. Bill retires from a distinguished career of government service, most recently having held the post of Regional Director for the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program and today I join his extended political family in this celebration.

The same interest and passion that Bill brought to his USDA service can be found in earlier chapters of his life. As a freshman in high school, he pursued an early interest in politics by working as a congressional page in Washington D.C. in 1962, and his sponsor was a son of Dorchester who went on to become the great Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, John W. McCormack. Bill was a page through the next two years, and capped his early Washington experience by witnessing Lyndon Johnson's inauguration in 1965. After graduating from the University of California and serving a brief stint with the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, Bill got his first job on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Aide for Congressman Dale Milford of Texas during the Carter Administration. Soon he moved closer to his Massachusetts up north to run a mobile office for my predecessor in this chamber, the late Paul Tsongas. From 1979 to 1983, Bill traveled in this capacity through the same towns he would later serve through the USDA. Once established in Western Massachusetts with Senator Tsongas, Bill dug deeper into the issues closest to the heart of those communities, and soon his knowledge and understanding of the region and its needs was exemplary. Even greater was his passion to serve them.

Bill coordinated these cities and towns in my first Senate campaign in 1984 and later became the Director of Constituent Services for my whole state-wide operation. Throughout the nine years he spent on my staff, he held positions that ranged from Director of Western Massachusetts to Director of Local Relations. In each position, Bill demonstrated the same tenacity and dedication to improving people's lives he carries to this day.

It came as no surprise to those who worked with and knew Bill that President Clinton would recognize and embrace these same qualities as he assumed office in 1993. The President appointed Bill to the position of Regional